

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY PRAISES CHARLOTTE SCHOOLS FOR TOP HONORS *Scores Underscore Continued Progress in North Carolina Schools*

RALEIGH – Gov. Easley today praised Charlotte-Mecklenburg students and teachers for outperforming eight other urban school districts and national averages in a special assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation's Report Card.

"I congratulate Charlotte students, teachers and administrators for showing the nation what North Carolina schools can do," said Easley. "This is just another reminder of the successes our schools have seen over the past few years. We are competing nationally in the NAEP exams, leading the country in math and reading. I am proud of what we have done, and I am focused on continuing our efforts to make North Carolina first in education."

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system serves 110,000 students. They were one of nine districts nationwide that volunteered to participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment of the NAEP. TUDA assessed representative samples of fourth and eighth grade public school students in 2003 from Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Cleveland, the District of Columbia, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City and San Diego in math and reading.

In math, Charlotte-Mecklenburg fourth grade students scored 242, beating the national average of 234 and the TUDA average of 224. Eighth grade students averaged 279, compared to 276 nationally and the TUDA average of 262.

In reading, Charlotte fourth grade students averaged 219, edging out the national average of 216 and the TUDA average of 205. Eighth grade students scored 262, compared to 261 nationally and the TUDA average of 249.

"Charlotte is a great example," said Easley. "We stayed the course and protected school funding in tough budget times. We cut class size in kindergarten through second grade, and we are working on third grade. And, our *More at Four* pre-kindergarten program is helping our youngest students start school ready to succeed."

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